



HARNEY COUNTY COURT

Office of Harney County Judge Pete Runnels
450 North Buena Vista #5, Burns, Oregon 97720

Phone: 541-573-6356 Fax: 541-573-8387

Websites: www.co.harney.or.us ♦ www.harneycounty.org

September 05, 2018

Via Electronic Filing

Commissioner Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79; Streamlining Deployment of Small Cell Infrastructure by Improving Wireless Siting Policies, WT Docket No. 16-421*

Dear Commissioner Carr:

We write to you, as County Commissioners in Harney County, Oregon, to emphasize the importance of eliminating the regulatory barriers that continue to impede the deployment of broadband wireless infrastructure. The Commission has done a wonderful job in fostering broadband by reducing regulations, and we urge you to continue those efforts.


Harney County is one of the least populous counties in the State of Oregon, and one of the largest counties by total land area in the United States. Deploying advanced broadband networks across our extremely rural county will directly benefit our citizens by strengthening our economy, providing more access to health care, and assisting our farmers and ranchers, and local schools. The many exciting technologies that wireless broadband can provide, including connected sensors and automated vehicles for planting, harvesting, and irrigation, will make it much easier to obtain optimum agricultural production. They will also help our ranchers save resources and improve the health of livestock.

We are concerned that investment in wireless broadband in extremely rural counties like Harney will be very slow to occur because laws and regulations across the nation often impose high costs and fees, and impose lengthy wireless siting and application processes. These regulatory obstacles drive up deployment costs in urban and suburban areas, leaving much less capital available for investment in rural communities such as ours. By taking action to speed and reduce the costs of deployment across the country, and create a more uniform regulatory framework, the Commission will lower the cost of deployment, enabling more investment in both urban and rural communities.

We are excited about the opportunities greater broadband connectivity and new, advanced wireless services will bring to our families, industries, and economy. For these reasons, we thank you for your actions to

date and urge you to take additional actions to make sure all of America benefits from the enormous promise of wireless broadband.

Respectfully submitted,



Pete Runnels, Harney County Judge



Mark Owens, Commissioner



Patty Dorroh, Commissioner